



Gozo, Malta



## Malta & Sicily | Islands of the Ancient Mediterranean

### Inspiring Moments

- Take in the stately medieval and baroque architecture along the intimate streets of **Valletta**, Malta's compact capital.
- Appreciate the glorious ruins of Sicily's renowned ancient cities of **Agrigento** and **Syracuse**.
- Delve into Roman aristocratic life through the spectacular, world-class **mosaics of Villa Romana del Casale**.
- Behold the intriguing Neolithic temples of **Hagar Qim** and **Ggantija**, older than the Great Pyramids and Stonehenge.
- Feel transported through time within the beautiful and colorful Maltese towns of **Mdina** and **Rabat**.
- Savor the breathtaking scenery and chic ambience of **Taormina**, Sicily's celebrated resort town perched on a hilltop.
- Experience six **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.

### Faculty Lecturer



**Eóin O'Donoghue**, assistant professor of Classical and Early Mediterranean Studies at Brandeis. His research includes the archaeology and material culture of the ancient Mediterranean, with a focus on pre- and early-Roman Italy and the Punic world.



### Itinerary

- Day 1** Depart gateway city 🌐
- Day 2** Arrive in Malta and transfer 🚢 to hotel in Sliema
- Day 3** Valletta
- Day 4** Mdina | Rabat | Hagar Qim
- Day 5** Ggantija | Victoria | Xwejni Bay
- Day 6** Sliema | Embark ferry | Pozzallo | Piazza Armerina | Taormina
- Day 7** Taormina
- Day 8** Syracuse
- Day 9** Agrigento
- Day 10** Taormina
- Day 11** Transfer 🚢 to Catania airport and depart for gateway city 🌐

Flights 🌐 and transfers 🚢 provided for AHI FlexAir participants.  
**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

### Included Features

- Accommodations** (with baggage handling)
  - **4 nights** in Sliema, Malta, at the first-class AX The Palace.
  - **5 nights** in Taormina, Italy, at the first-class Eurostars Monte Tauro.
- Transfers** (with baggage handling)
  - All transfers during the Land Program: ferries and deluxe motor coaches.
- Extensive Meal Program**
  - 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Your One-of-a-Kind Journey**
  - **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
  - **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
  - **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
  - 🌐 **AHI Connects | Local immersion.**
  - 🕒 **Electives** and **free time** to pursue your individual interests.
  - Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
  - 🌱 **AHI Sustainability Promise |** Striving to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
  - A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
  - Tipping of guides and drivers.
  - Complimentary travel mementos.



**A World of Discovery**

**AHI Connects | Pizza-Cooking Demo.**

Get great tips for making tasty Sicilian pizzal!

**Valletta.** Spanning almost 8,000 years, Malta's rich history includes periods of rule by the Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, the Order of St. John and the British, among others. On a guided walk, delight in its majestic, fortified capital. See stunning views of the Grand Harbor from the Upper Barrakka Gardens, visit the glittering St. John's Co-Cathedral and tour stately Casa Rocca Piccola, a 16th-century palace.

**Mdina, Rabat & Hagar Qim.** In Malta's ancient walled capital, Mdina, see the regal city gate and stroll down charming, narrow lanes to admire the homes of Malta's noble families and St. Paul's Cathedral. See the landmarks of nearby Rabat and visit Domus Romana, a museum on the site of a Roman house, featuring mosaic floors and artifacts. Next, on the southern coast, marvel at the impressive Hagar Qim temples, built more than 5,500 years ago with massive stones.

**Island of Gozo.** On this scenic island in the Maltese archipelago, ponder some of the oldest free-standing stone structures in the world at the Neolithic Ggantija Temples. Then, go inside the picturesque, hilltop Cittadella in Victoria, the island's capital, on a walking tour. Later, see the patchwork pattern of rock-cut salt pans along Gozo's Xwejini Bay, and learn how a local family harvests the sea salt, a tradition that dates to Phoenician and Roman times.

**Sicily's Mosaic Masterpieces.** In Piazza Armerina, visit the Villa Romana del Casale, a fourth-century villa adorned with some of the world's finest Roman mosaics. Study more than 40 floors impeccably crafted with scenes of wild animals, hunting, myths, female athletes, domestic life and more.

**Taormina.** See the historic medieval center of this lovely resort town with your guide, and visit its Greek theater, which features stellar views of the sea and Mount Etna.

**Syracuse.** Visit the Archaeological Park to view remarkable ruins of this onetime Greek colony founded in 734 B.C. Take in the expansive Greek theater; the Latomia del Paradiso, a former limestone quarry; and the Ear of Dionysius, a cave famed for its acoustics. Head next to Ortygia, Syracuse's

*contd.*



Temple of Concordia

atmospheric island old town. On a guided walk, go inside the splendid Cathedral of Syracuse and the Mikveh of Syracuse, the oldest Jewish ritual bath in Europe.

**Agrigento's Valley of the Temples.** Revel in magnificent Doric temples that attest to the glory of ancient Agrigento, founded by the Greeks in the sixth century. View the Temples of Concordia, Juno, Hercules and others with insights from your guide.

**Enrichment**

- History of Malta
- Sicilian Culture and Traditions

**UNESCO World Heritage**

1. **The City of Valletta, Malta**
2. **Megalithic Temples of Malta**
3. **Late Baroque Towns, Val di Noto, Italy**
4. **Villa Romana del Casale, Italy**
5. **Syracuse, Italy**
6. **Archaeological Area of Agrigento, Italy**

**Electives | Go further afield**

**Mount Etna.** Relish a thrilling perspective of Europe's highest active volcano on a scenic, winding drive. Walk around the crater, learn about this UNESCO World Heritage site's geology and history, and enjoy lunch after.

(At an additional cost.)

**Accommodations**

**AX The Palace | Sliema**



**Eurostars Monte Tauro | Taormina**



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Ortygia

**AHI Travel Expertise**

For more than six decades, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely.

**Travel & Air Coordinators |** Help with everything from arranging flights to fulfilling special requests.

**Travel Director |** Manages all details to ensure a safe and memorable trip.

**Travel information |** Prepares you fully for your journey.

**Expert local guides and lecturers |** Provide friendly, knowledgeable service and share their passion for the destination.

**Let us arrange your flights!**

**AHI FlexAir |** Our personalized air program features transfers, assistance and flexibility.

**2025 Departures & Pricing**

**September 4-14, 2025**

Full Price	From \$5,545
Special Savings	\$250
<b>Special Price</b>	<b>From \$5,295</b>

VAT & port tax supplement are an additional \$395 per person. All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$1,495 (limited availability).

**ACTIVE TRAVEL**

**Excursions on this program require:**

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and uneven surfaces
- getting on and off motor coaches
- walking on steep inclines/declines and up and down stairs